

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 8:00-9:00 p.m.
Unlimited "One-Minutes"	

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

Suspension Bills: Today, the House will consider several bills on the Suspension calendar. Bills considered on the Suspension calendar are debatable for 40 minutes; may not be amended; and require a two-thirds vote for passage. If a recorded vote is requested, it will be postponed.

1. [H.Con.Res. 7](#) - Calling on the League of Arab States to acknowledge the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and to step up their efforts to stop the genocide in Darfur (*Rep. Lee – Foreign Affairs*)
2. [H.Res. 125](#) - Expressing deep concern over the use of civilians as "human shields" in violation of international humanitarian law and the law of war during armed conflict, including Hezbollah's tactic of embedding its forces among civilians to use them as human shields during the summer of 2006 conflict between Hezbollah and the State of Israel (*Rep. Ros-Lehtinen – Foreign Affairs*)
3. [H.Res. 240](#) - Urging all member countries of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service (ITS) who have yet to ratify the May 2006 Amendments to the 1955 Bonn Accords Treaty, to expedite the ratification process to allow for open access to the Holocaust archives located at Bad Arolsen, Germany (*Rep. Hastings (FL) – Foreign Affairs*)
4. [H.R. 1678](#) – Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2007 (*Rep. Smith (NJ) – Foreign Affairs*)
5. [H.Con.Res. 68](#) - Honoring the life and accomplishments of Gian Carlo Menotti and recognizing the success of the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina, which he founded (*Rep. Brown(SC) – Education and Labor*)
6. [H.Res. 292](#) - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that schools should celebrate National Garden Month through a curriculum that includes outdoor learning (*Rep. Pryce (OH) – Education and Labor*)

7. [H.Res. 320](#) - Congratulating the University of Tennessee women's basketball team for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship (*Rep. Duncan – Education and Labor*)
 8. [H.Con.Res. 121](#) - Recognizing the benefits and importance of school-based music education, and for other purposes (*Rep. Cooper – Education and Labor*)
 9. [H.R. 493](#) - Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2007 (*Rep. Slaughter – Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means*)
- **H. Res. 330-Rule to Provide for consideration of H.R. 1332 – Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007 (Arcuri-Rules):** The structured rule provides for one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Small Business. No amendments shall be in order except those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Arcuri and consideration will proceed in the following order:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**
 - **H.R. 1332- Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007 (Bean-Small Business):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Small Business Committee Chair Rep. Nydia Valazquez, or her designee, and will proceed in the following order:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Debate and vote(s) on amendments to the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on final passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**
 - **H. Res. 332-Rule to provide for consideration of the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 1591 - Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes (Slaughter-Rules):** The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The conference report shall be considered as read. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rules Committee Chair Rep. Louise Slaughter and consideration will proceed in the following order:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**

- **Conference Report on [H.R. 1591](#) - U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act (Rep. Obey - Appropriations):**
Debate on the Conference Report will be managed by Appropriations Committee Chair Rep. David Obey, or his designee, and will proceed in the following order:
 - One hour of debate on the Conference Report
 - Vote on passage of the Conference Report. **Democrats are urged to vote YES on passage of the Conference Report.**

Bill Summary and Key Issues

H.R. 1332- Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007

Small businesses in America are often the catalysts for technological innovation, and this bill strengthens access to capital programs for U.S. small businesses, offering them needed tools to be successful.

- The bill will make 7(a) loans more economical for small businesses. (Attached is a state-by-state list of the number of 7(a) small business loans in FY 2006.)
- The measure establishes a rural lender outreach program to attract small lenders back into SBA's lending program -- reducing application burdens for borrowers and lenders to streamline and expedite the lending process.
- It also assists veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan to secure funding to start or expand their firms by eliminating borrower and lender fees and increasing to 90 percent the guaranteed portion of loans made to veteran-owned small businesses.
- It makes long overdue changes to strengthen the community ties between certain lenders (Certified Development Companies (CDC)/504) and their local economies and gives CDCs the tools they need to make the loans that are needed by area businesses.

Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 1332

Matheson (UT): #5, The amendment would add "members of reserve components of the armed forces" as eligible to receive loans under the Community Express Program and the Increased Veteran Participation Program. (10 minutes)

Matheson (UT): #6, (REVISED) The amendment would include "members of qualified Indian tribes" as eligible to participate in the Community Express Program. (10 minutes)

Cuellar (TX): #1, The amendment would allow rural small business owners, who do not have a rural lender in their area, to receive the benefits of the Rural Lending Outreach Program through loans issued by any lender enrolled in the 7(a) loan program. (10 minutes)

Inslee (WA): #2, (REVISED) The amendment would add to public policy goals of the section 504 of Small Business Lending program a purpose area that would increase small-businesses access to sustainable design or low-impact design to ultimately reduce carbon-emissions and environmental impact. (10 minutes)

Conference Report on H.R. 1591, U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act

House and Senate conferees have approved legislation providing \$124.2 billion primarily for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, for improving the health care for returning soldiers and veterans, for continued Hurricane Katrina recovery for the Gulf Coast, to fill major gaps in homeland security, and to provide emergency drought relief for farmers.

As part of the legislation, conferees approved a sensible plan to redeploy U.S. forces in Iraq paired with progress made by the Iraqi government in meeting diplomatic and security benchmarks. The legislation, subject to Presidential waiver, would ensure adequate rest between tours of duty of both active duty and Guard and Reserve forces, while also requiring that their service in Iraq not be extended beyond a year for any tour of duty.

President Bush would be required to certify that the Iraqi government is meeting the diplomatic and security benchmarks. If he makes that certification, deployment shall begin no later than October 1, 2007, with the goal of completing the redeployment within 180 days. After that period, a limited number of U.S. forces could remain in Iraq for force protection, training and equipping Iraqi troops, and targeted counterterrorism options. The legislation makes it possible for the U.S. military to focus its resources on Osama bin Laden, whose organization attacked the nation on 9/11, and destroying his base of operations in Afghanistan.

Additionally, the U.S. commander in Iraq would provide regular progress reports to Congress on both the progress of the Iraqi government to take control of that country as well as the status of the redeployment efforts.

Overall, the conference agreement provides:

- More than \$100 billion for the Department of Defense, primarily for continued military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The legislation includes a \$1 billion increase for the National Guard and Reserve equipment and \$1.1 billion for military housing. The conference report provides \$3 billion (\$1.2 billion more than the President's request) for the purchase of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAP) – vehicles designed to withstand roadside bombs.
- More than \$5 billion to ensure that returning troops and veterans receive the health care that they have earned with their service.
- \$6.9 billion for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.
- Emergency funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) totals more than \$650 million.
- Homeland security investments total \$2.25 billion, including funds for port security and mass transit security, for explosives detection equipment at airports, and for several initiatives in the 9/11 bill that recently passed the Senate.
- \$3.5 billion is provided to help relieve the enormous pressure on farmers and ranchers as a result of severe drought and agricultural disasters.

- The conference agreement also includes emergency funding for forest firefighting, low income home energy assistance, and pandemic flu preparations.

Quote of the Day

The experience of democracy is like the experience of life itself—always changing, infinite in its variety, sometimes turbulent and all the more valuable for having been tested by adversity. —Former President Jimmy Carter

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